

From: [Richard Florentine](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Cc: [Richard Florentine](#)
Subject: New mandates regarding preventative health services
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 10:07:05 PM

1216 VFW Parkway #46
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Dear HHS Director Sibelius,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed new mandates to health insurances to cover FDA-approved contraceptives.

I wish to express my shock at these newly proposed mandates regarding a non medical condition, ...pregnancy at a time when this country is facing a financial crisis of epic proportions. Our health care system should be focused on providing health care not providing funding to prevent conditions which are not disease states.

I am reminded of the fiasco in terms of untimely deaths of unsuspecting women who were advised (prior to sufficient scientific study...HERS study, etc) to take FDA approved Oral contraceptives for the purpose of hormone replacement therapy to "prevent heart disease", with increased deaths from heart disease, blood clots and cancer. The practice of medicine should be left to doctors who have the training to assess the treatments that are best for individual patients. Politically motivated decisions, such as your latest proposal, come at the hands of people with agenda's other than patient's health.

The greatest concern of this entire proposal is the attempt to override the conscientious decisions of health care providers and other free agents within a free society. Respect for the conscience rights is foundational to a just society. **THIS MUST NOT BE TAMPERED WITH.**

At the bear minimum, explicit protection of the conscience rights of all parties concerned, should be stated for not only religious employers but to all employers, insurance and policy issuers with moral, ethical or religious objections of conscience. These proposals are unAmerican, undemocratic and unscientific and need to be removed.

I write to you sincerely as a primary care physician, who has seen first hand many recent occasions of heavy handed corporate and political bullies trying to override the sound decisions of medical professionals for reasons that are nefarious and other than for the well being of patients. This must not be enabled but it **MUST BE STOPPED**. These proposals should not go forward.

Sincerely yours,

Richard G. Florentine, MD